



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 2022

National Mentoring Month

This January marks the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an opportunity to focus attention on the invaluable role of mentors in the lives of young people, and lift up ways that each of us can help them thrive.

Mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem and growth in a young person and their relationships with other adults. Mentoring programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Youth Mentoring Action Network make our communities and our state stronger by driving impactful relationships for young people and providing important support networks.

During the pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships remain strong and responsive to the needs of young Californians. Students who meet regularly with their mentors reap an array of benefits. They are more than 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using drugs.

This month, we recognize and elevate mentoring as a force for positive change in communities across California. Let us honor the volunteer mentors who support the young people in their lives to reach new heights, and encourage more Californians from all walks of life to become a mentor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom